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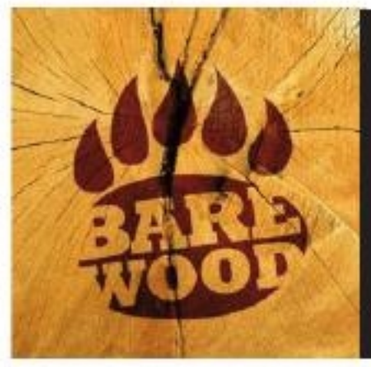

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Inside this week:

Work starts on £430k Blackbird Leys Pavilion p11

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Thursday, February 20 - Wednesday, February 26, 2014 Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

• Colonel Adam McRae

BURGLARS STRIKE AT HOME OF COLONEL

Jewellery and children's Christmas presents taken in raid last week

THE former commanding officer of the 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, based in Didcot, has had his family home in Marcham burgled.

Colonel Adam McRae MBE, now stationed in Andover, led 11EOD's welcome parade in the town last October.

The regiment had just returned from a six-month tour of Afghanistan.

Find us on Twitter @OxfordGuardian

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

However, on February 10, his family home on the A415 Abingdon Road was burgled.

Between 7.40am and 2.20pm, offenders forced entry to the rear patio doors of the property, taking sentimental items and his children's Christmas presents.

An Emerald ring with ten surrounding diamonds, a large Gold locket engraved with flowers and an Omega Seamaster watch in its box were stolen.

The latter item was presented to Col McRae by 11EOD and has a regimental crest on it with 'Lt Col A D McRae MBE' engraved on the strap.

Felix Bomb Disposal and Olympic tiepins, as well as a silver decanter, were also taken.

Electrical items including an iPad, two Kindles, two Kindle Fires, cameras, laptops, a Wii U console, controller and games were also stolen in the burglary.

"It is not nice to come home and find someone has been in your

• Continued on page 3

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Mother wants justice after death of Connor

Man, 20, appears in court charged with teen's murder

THE mother of 17-year-old Connor Tremble, who died after being stabbed in his Oxford flat, has said she wants "justice" for her son.

Thames Valley Police has charged 20-year-old William Blencowe from Banbury with Connor's murder.

Connor died in the John Radcliffe Hospital last Saturday, following an incident at Fairacres Road at 6.45pm on February 13.

He was stabbed a number of times in the legs, chest and hands.

His mum Lisa said the loss of her son has "ripped [her] heart into pieces".

In a statement, she said: "Connor was a much-loved son, big brother, nephew and grandson.

"His death has ripped my heart into pieces and I feel I have been robbed of something priceless.

"I want justice for Connor and to appeal for anybody with information regarding his death to come forward.

"I urge you to think about the value and delicacy of life."

Connor's father, Martin Smith, added: "Connor was a charming, happy-go-lucky boy, a dearly loved son, big brother and grandson and he will hold a place in my heart until the day that I die.

"Wherever he is, may he have found peace and comfort. He will be greatly missed."

Tributes have also been pouring in on social media with a Facebook group, 'Justice for Connor Tremble', attracting over 2,700 likes.

Dion Greaves wrote: "R.I.P mate! you will be sadly missed!!", and Julie Woods posted: "Justice for Connor such a lovely young man xx god bless xx".

Family and friends also set off lanterns in to the night sky at Spiceball Park in Banbury last Sunday evening.

A fundraising page has also been set up to raise money for two memorial benches in Oxford and Banbury.

Last Sunday's post-mortem did not establish a cause of death.

A 21-year-old man from Birmingham, arrested on Saturday on suspicion of assisting an offender, was released without charge.

Blencowe appeared at Reading Crown Court yesterday.

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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• *Connor Tremble died in hospital on Saturday night*

Lorry driver fined after bridge restriction breach

A LORRY driver from Kidlington who admitted breaching a weight restriction on Shabbington East Bridge, near Thame, has been ordered to pay a £500 fine, £130 costs and a £50 victim surcharge.

Graham Hosier, 48, of Waverley Avenue, was spotted crossing the bridge by an Oxfordshire County Council bridge technician on June 19 last year, which was subsequently followed up by the Trading Standards team.

The bridge has a three-tonne weight limit after surveys determined it to be weak, and Hosier was prosecuted for driving a vehicle of a weight up to 7.5-tonnes.

Richard Webb, the council's Trading Standards team's manager, said: "Bridge weight restrictions are there for a very good reason as limits are how much a bridge has been assessed as being able to safely take at a time.

"Ignoring restrictions mean drivers of heavy vehicles are putting other bridge users and themselves in danger, as they could cause a serious accident through a bridge collapse.

"It may be tempting for drivers to flout the rules in order to take a short-cut, but it's always better to take the long and legal way round to ensure other road users' safety.

"I hope this case acts as a warning to other drivers who might be thinking of ignoring bridge weight restrictions."

News Bites

Russian site

OXFORD Brookes has developed a new website for Russian students to find out more about the university.

The website, www.oxfordbrookes.ru, follows the successful launch of in-language sites in Japan, Thailand and Taiwan.

Brookes' new Russian site promotes key reasons why students should choose the university, course information and contacts.

Duo sentenced

TWO men from Oxford have each been sentenced to two years and three months in a detention centre for sexually abusing a teenage boy.

Iztullah Qudrat, 19, and Ghausel Tarakhail, 20, have also been placed on the sex offenders register for 10 years.

Qudrut admitted to engaging in sexual activity with a 14-year-old boy in the toilets in Bury Knowle Park.

Tarakhail admitted to inciting the victim to engage in sexual activity.

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Burgled soldier: 'Stolen items irreplaceable'

• *Five Felix Fund tiepins were stolen in the raid*

• *From front page*

house and taken things," said Col McRae.

"It's the sentimental items, the other things, it sounds horrible, but it is just stuff.

"The sentimental items, the ring, the locket, the watch I was given by the regiment. They are just irreplaceable.

"If I got nothing else back and just those three items I would be happy."

He continued: "I wasn't targeted because I am in the army.

"I have had lots of people saying lots of nice things but it still doesn't make it any better."

Col McRae lives with his wife and two children, aged 10 and 12.

He added: "My children were quite frightened.

"The Kindle Fires were theirs and the Wii U was bought for Christmas as well so they have lost their presents.

"The police have been brilliant, very quick, very helpful, and are still working and talking to us.

"I have been really impressed."

PC Mark Allmond said: "This is a very busy main road through Marcham so we are appealing for anyone who saw anything suspicious or who might have some information about this."

If you have any information contact PC Allmond on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Garage winner: 'Thanks for support'

A WEST Hagbourne business has scooped a national award for 'Garage of the Year'.

Scotland's Ash Garage, based on Main Street, won the prize at the Car & Accessory Trader (CAT) magazine awards.

Owner Peter Welch collected the award at Twickenham Rugby Stadium on February 7 and described being bestowed with the honour as "incredible".

Mr Welch said: "We're a small business but we work hard to raise the profile of good car servicing and repair across Oxfordshire.

"To have so many people from the local area cast their vote for us is amazing and I'd like to say thanks to all of them for their support.

"And, to the Scotlands Ash Team, family, friends and customers, who have been with us on our journey, we thank them enormously."

• *Peter Welch, owner of Scotland's Ash Garage, with the award.*

News Bites

Voices heard

RESIDENTS have responded to a consultation on the possible purchase of land for sport and recreation at Hadden Hill.

The consultation closed last Friday and the town council received 150 responses - 144 from residents and six from sports clubs.

Didcot Town Council says it is too early to comment in detail on the results, which are currently being analysed.

However, some of the activities that residents would like included rugby, football and hockey.

The results will be reported to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on March 3.

If councillors recommend to move forward with the plans, it will be discussed at full council on March 10.

Volunteer

DIDCOT Town Council is asking for volunteers to help with a litter pick on March 15.

Volunteers are being asked to meet in the Civic Hall Car Park for 9am where they will be given bags, gloves and litter pickers.

If you know any areas of the town that needs a clean up, contact the council on 01235 812637 or council@didcot.gov.uk.

Do you have a Didcot story?

Contact Jack via *jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk* **or on 01235 516932**

Harwell scientists 'may have cured the common cold'

INTERNATIONAL scientists working at Harwell, near Didcot, may have found a cure for the common cold.

Experts have, with the help of crystallography beamlines at the Diamond Light Source, successfully developed a compound which might prevent viruses from infecting humans.

A team of scientists from Oxford, Beijing, Leeds and Innsbruck collaborated on the research.

The inhibitor targets a group of viruses responsible for the hand, foot and mouth disease, similar hallmarks for the common cold.

Prof Dave Stuart, director at Diamond, said: "By targeting a structural feature also found in related viruses, it should be possible to devise similar therapeutics to target them.

"Within the field, I am aware of one company that is already making progress in targeting the major common cold virus.

"Our work is still at an early stage, but we are working with academic groups in China to take the inhibitor forward."

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News Bites

New librarian for Bodleian

OXFORD University's Bodleian Libraries has a new librarian.

Richard Ovenden will succeed Dr Sarah Thomas as Bodley's Librarian and also become a fellow of Balliol College.

Mr Ovenden has held the position on an interim basis since August last year.

Cyclist dies after collision

A CYCLIST died in Oxford on Monday morning after colliding with a car.

The collision happened on the Watlington Road, the B480, at the junction with Garsington Road in Cowley.

Police were called at 5.41am to reports of a collision between a Nissan Micra and a cyclist.

The male rider died at the scene.

Thames Valley Police arrested a 39-year-old man from Reading on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. He is on bail until April 10.

The force is appealing to anyone with information to call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Husband Phil takes challenge to heart

AN OXFORDSHIRE couple are encouraging as many people as possible to become organ donors, after a severe illness has greatly affected their lives over the past year.

Phil Marshall is set to complete four increasingly difficult challenges to raise awareness for organ donation through their 'I give you my heart' campaign, after his wife Sarah was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension.

Sarah was first hospitalised early last year when she tried to get up one morning and collapsed on the floor, struggling to breathe.

But it would take another seven months before doctors finally diagnosed the condition.

"It was very difficult," said Sarah. "Because we didn't know what was wrong with me, it was incredibly frustrating.

"I could hardly move, I couldn't breathe properly, everything just went wrong overnight, it was very strange."

Sarah was a teacher in Fritwell, near Bicester, before she fell ill, while Phil works in Banbury. They live in King's Sutton, on the Oxfordshire-Northamptonshire border.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

On their donation page, www.igiveyoumyheart.org, Phil said Sarah has made progress from not being able to walk at all, to managing 200m after three months of aggressive drug treatment.

However, he writes that doctors are unwilling to give any prognosis on her life expectancy, but it is estimated between two to 10 years. This can be prolonged for some people by having a heart and/or lung transplant.

Many sufferers die while waiting for a donor.

Phil added: "The whole 12 months has been a real rollercoaster of all sorts of emotions, through frustration to just being sad at times with the diagnosis."

It was after discovering more about pulmonary hypertension that Phil decided to raise awareness for organ donation by planning his four challenges.

He will start off by running a half-marathon in April, followed by a full marathon, 85-mile race

• *Phil and Sarah Marshall*

walk and then culminating in a 100-mile run in August.

"One of my strengths is that I can be quite determined and bloody-minded at times, so the idea of doing something involving endurance is something that appealed to me," said Phil.

"It's obviously very daunting as it's a massive challenge."

Phil is not looking for sponsorship through his challenges, but is instead asking people to take a pledge to sign up to be an organ donor.

Sarah said: "If you are on the list then it is important to make your family aware. They then won't be surprised and they'll know that this is what you wanted.

"And by talking to them, you might encourage them to put their name down as well".

Go to www.igiveyoumyheart.org.

Council leader hails response teams after tree incidents

OXFORDSHIRE County Council have dealt with more than 140 fallen trees or big branches since Friday, after strong winds affected southern England.

More than 40 staff have been involved in clearing the trees across the county, which led to a number of road closures.

All parts of the county were affected in equal measure, and tree specialists and highways crews have been working day and night to respond to the volume of incidents.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, leader of the county council, said: "I'd like to thank our highways teams who have been out and about in the most treacherous of weather conditions to deal with fallen trees and clear roads for traffic.

"Exceptionally high winds and driving rain in the darkness hours is hardly the ideal working environment and I am sure it was a very difficult night."

Woodstock Road in Oxford was affected by a fallen tree, which badly damaged a street-lighting column.

Other roads affected across the county were in Banbury, Woodstock, Chipping Norton, Burford, Steventon, Sutton Courtenay and Great Rollright.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Josh Florey feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps.

Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Oxfordshire from their local depots and Josh is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truthis that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Josh a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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News Bites

Boy attacked

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy was assaulted by another boy in Banbury on Friday, in what police believe is an unprovoked attack.

The assault took place as the victim was walking to school along Upper Windsor Street at around 8.20am when he passed the offender, who grabbed him and pushed him to the pavement.

He fell to the ground and the offender, who did not say anything during the assault and was not known to the victim, walked off.

The offender was of a similar age to the victim, was wearing a school uniform and carrying a black rucksack.

Anyone with information should contact PC Ruth Ivins on 101.

Council approves £64m cuts in latest budget

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

OXFORDSHIRE County Council approved its 2014/15 budget on Tuesday, which sees around £64million of cuts as funding from central government is reduced.

The Conservative proposal was passed by 30 votes to 27, after amendments by the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green groups were rejected.

An increase of just under two per cent will be made to council tax, which is the highest increase that can be made without the need for a referendum.

Cuts to services include £7.1m from adult social care, £6.4m from the children, education and families budget, and over £600,000 from fire and community safety.

Around £11.2m will also be cut from the environment and economy budget, £2.5m from public health and £1.5m from cultural services, which includes public libraries.

Speaking on Twitter, council leader Ian Hudspeth said: "This is my second budget as leader of the council, I had hoped that it would be easier than last year's. However, that has not been the case. In 2010 we started to reduce the budget by £201m. We now have an additional £64m to make, bringing the total to an eye-watering £265m. This budget will put extra money into youth protection, mainstream welfare rights and respite breaks for children's carers and flood relief.

"It will also abolish 15 minute home care visits, put an extra £1m into highways, and maintain laundry services for incontinent residents.

"These are essential services that we need to deliver for the vulnerable people of Oxfordshire."

The three other political parties at the council all proposed amendments to the budget, with the Liberal Democrats suggesting that more money should be borrowed, which they said could save money long-term.

Cllr Zoe Patrick, speaking on Twitter, said: "[It was a] long day debating budget cuts. Pity our amendments were voted down, but let's wait and see."

Labour's proposals, which included providing funding for youth workers and safeguarding the 'dial a ride' service, were also voted down.

And a Green party amendment which proposed a 4.5 per cent rise in council tax to reduce the amount of cuts was also rejected, with that level of increase requiring a referendum before it could be brought in.

Cllr Sam Coates said on Twitter: "All other parties voted against [the] Green plan to save vital services for vulnerable.

"We will now see even more cuts to homelessness, care services and other vital lifelines for our most vulnerable neighbours."

The budget has proven controversial with residents in recent months, and protestors were outside County Hall on Tuesday morning as councillors arrived for the meeting.

And on Saturday, a march was held from Manzil Way to Bonn Square in Oxford ahead of Tuesday's meeting, with residents protesting against the level of cuts.

It was organised by the Oxford People's Assembly.

Developer 'must produce West Way EIA'

A COMMUNITY group have welcomed a decision by Vale of White Horse District Council that developer Doric Properties will need to produce an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to supplement their proposals for the West Way shopping centre in Botley.

West Way Community Concern has objected to a number of Doric's proposals, and is holding a public meeting next Thursday about the issue.

The group is concerned that the planned development is not suitable for Botley, and last year hundreds of people gathered to link hands around the site in protest.

Co-chair of the group Chris Church said: "This is a victory for local campaigners. We will wait with interest to see how far the EIA is done to a proper standard."

Last week, the Guardian reported that Doric were set to plant nearly 200 trees as part of its development plans of West Way.

The planning consultation stage for the proposals ends on March 27. For more information, go to www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale4business/westway.

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Children's charity's royal visit

AN OXFORDSHIRE-BASED children's charity has celebrated more than 100 years of work with a special visit from HRH The Countess of Wessex.

Local dignitaries, trustees and supporters of PACT, and local schoolchildren, descended upon Dorchester Abbey last Thursday to commemorate the charity's centenary.

Sophie, Countess of Wessex, buried a time capsule, containing items collected from a number of PACT projects, in the Abbey's grounds.

Jan Fishwick, chief executive of PACT, said: "The day was about celebrating the work of PACT and to showcase what we do.

"We were thrilled to have the Countess of Wessex here to come and take an interest in the work we do and to support us."

PACT's aim is to build and strengthen families through adoption and fostering and community projects.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The charity was set up in 1911 when Lord Stanmore provided the Bishop of Oxford, Francis Paget, with a £100 donation.

Ms Fishwick added: "Our society has changed but the work we do and the reason why we exist is very similar.

"We buried a time capsule to serve as a record of our work so far and as a celebration of all that we have achieved."

One family that has benefited from PACT's work is the Harris's who live in South Oxfordshire.

Tony, 47, and Sarah Harris, 42, adopted six-year-old Nicheala when she was just a year old.

Despite attachment issues throughout her first year with the family, she is now a "very happy and lively six-year-old", who loves to play video games with her eight-year-old brother Theo.

• *(From left to right) Sarah, Nicheala, Tony and Theo Harris*

• *The countess chats to six-year-old Nicheala*

• *Sophie buries the time capsule*

"She was quite agitated," Tony and Sarah explained, "and because she couldn't talk, she could not explain her feelings.

"She was with people she did not know and did not understand what was going on.

"We had our difficulties and PACT gave us a lot of support. We got through it all and we settled in very nicely.

"The adoption process was very quick and with PACT the people are so experienced at what they do it simplified the process and we got through it very easily."

The countess also opened The Highfield Unit at the Warneford Hospital in Headington, and visited the Oxford Food Bank.

Silencing the howling hounds

CHERWELL District Council received 120 complaints during 2012/13 relating to noisy dogs, it has been revealed.

Reports of loud dogs accounted for 17 per cent of overall noise complaints in that period, and with six weeks of the 2013/14 financial year remaining, the figure has risen to 159.

Cllr Tony Ilott, lead member for public protection, said: "As a country we are known for being a nation of dog lovers but it is very easy to fall out of love with a dog that barks, howls and whines all hours of the day and night.

"Nobody should be forced to tolerate a noisy neighbour, even if the culprit has four legs and a tail.

"In some instances, the owner may be unaware of the disruption so a polite chat may be all that is needed to resolve the problem. However, if that fails, Cherwell's antisocial behaviour team is here to help restore the peace."

If an investigation is required, a member of the antisocial behaviour team can serve an abatement notice, with further legal action possible through the magistrates' courts.

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A healthier lifestyle? There's an app for that

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A FREE smartphone app that gives nutritional information on over 80,000 packaged food and drinks has been launched by a team which included researchers from Oxford University.

FoodSwitch provides a 'traffic lights' rating system related to health, including fats, sugars, salt, protein and fibre.

It also suggests alternative products to help consumers

Find us on Twitter @OxfordGuardian

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

wanting a healthier diet, and was developed by the George Institute for Global Health along with Oxford University researchers.

Dr Peter Scarborough works in the British Heart Foundation Health Promotion Research Group at Oxford University, and he believes it will help people trying to lead a healthier lifestyle.

He said: "With all the messages about health in the public eye, it is hard for consumers to know what is 'healthy'.

"The established nutrition criteria used in the app shows customers products that are healthier overall, not just whether they are higher in salt, fat or sugar.

Professor Susan Jebb of the university's Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences added: "A poor diet is responsible for tens of thousands of premature deaths every year in the UK.

"People will be able to use this smartphone technology to swap the foods in their regular shopping basket for healthier options to help themselves and their families to cut the risk of diabetes, heart disease and some cancers."

FoodSwitch identifies foods by people scanning the barcodes with their smartphone camera, and then looks through its database to find the relevant information.

If a product is not listed, shoppers can take photos of the missing items to be validated and added to the database for future use.

Katharine Jenner, campaign director of FoodSwitch UK, said: "The app puts the shopper back in control.

"It is not about telling people to stop eating or avoid certain foods with red colours, but rather highlighting differences in products.

"This new app will allow people to take responsibility for their individual and their family's health, and improve their eating habits in an easy and fun way."

FoodSwitch is free to download, and is available for iPhone and Android phones. For more information, go to www.actiononsalt.org.uk/foodswitch.

Santa robber still wanted by police

POLICE are continuing to search for a man who robbed an Oxford store dressed in a Father Christmas outfit, and are re-appealing for witnesses.

At around 9.30am on December 23, the man entered the Next Store in Oxford Retail Park, Cowley, and walked into a staff area.

He then threatened a member of staff with a knife and demanded cash from a safe, and after being handed over money he then made off on a bicycle towards Blackbird Leys bridge.

The offender is described as white, of medium build, between 5ft 9ins to 6ft and in his thirties. He was wearing a blue fleece and jeans under the Father Christmas outfit.

Next are offering a £10,000 reward for information should a conviction take place.

Det Sgt Mark Stalder said: "This was a frightening incident which has left the staff member very shaken.

"We would urge anyone shopping around the Oxford Retail Park this morning who saw a man on a bike, dressed as Father Christmas, and who has not spoken to us already to get in touch as a matter of urgency."

Anyone with information should contact Det Sgt Stalder on 101.

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facebook.com/OxfordshireGuardian

Work starts on £430k Blackbird Leys pavilion

WORK officially started on the new Blackbird Leys Pavilion on Friday, which is set to be home to Blackbirds FC and Greater Leys FC once complete.

The pavilion is owned by Oxford City Council, and the brand new facility will have changing rooms, official rooms, toilets and a tuck shop, with the construction costing approximately £430,000.

Cllr Mark Lygo, board member for parks, sports and events, said: "This facility will provide local teams with a high standard of facilities.

"We hope that it will increase the number of players and see them improve in their respective leagues.

"The ward councillors and sports officers have, and will, continue to work with the football clubs to ensure that they will be sustainable for the up and coming years."

Work comes at part of the council's Pavilion Modernisation Programme, which aims to improve 12 pavilions across the city as well as build a new facility at Grandpoint Recreation Ground.

Blackbird Leys pavilion is a replacement of an existing building, which was condemned almost eight years ago.

• *Representatives from Blackbirds FC and Greater Leys FC with city councillor Scott Seamons (right)*

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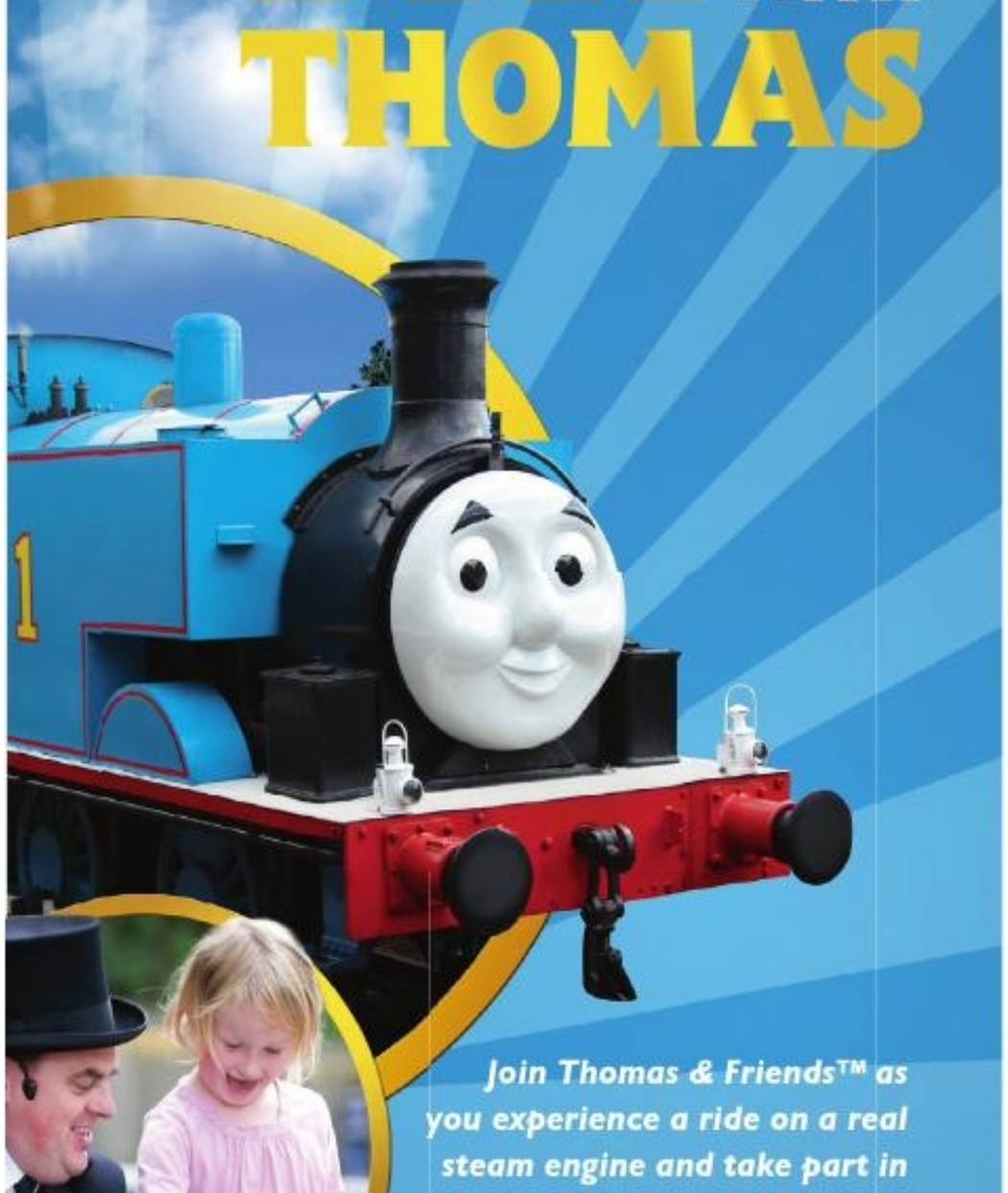

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'IRA' claims responsibility for packages

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A GROUP claiming to be the 'IRA' says it was responsible for the suspect package found at an Army Careers office in Oxford last week.

The package was discovered at the office on St Giles last Thursday morning, with police cordoning off the street for more than two hours.

Similar packages were found at six other locations across the South East.

A spokesperson from Metropolitan Police said the group made the claim to a media organisation in Northern Ireland last Saturday.

"We are aware of the claim of responsibility for the devices that were sent to army recruitment centres in England last week," a statement read.

"The claim was received on Saturday, February 15, by a Northern Irish media outlet using a recognised codeword.

"The claim was allegedly made on behalf of the 'IRA'."

Prime Minister David Cameron chaired a COBR (Cabinet Office Briefing Room) meeting at the end of last week to discuss the devices.

Downing Street released a statement last Friday saying the packages bore "all the hallmarks of Northern Ireland related terrorism".

A Number 10 spokesperson said: "Guidance has been issued to staff at all military establishments and Royal Mail asking them to be extra vigilant and to look out for any suspect packages.

"The national threat level remains under constant review."

Officers from the South East Counter Terrorism Unit (SECTU) assessed the contents of the package found at St Giles.

MOD Bomb Disposal Units were also called while the area was temporarily cordoned off as a precaution.

Det Supt Stan Gilmour of SECTU said the package posed "a very low level threat".

He added: "When a suspect package is reported we have a routine response which means we may need to evacuate the area if necessary until we can be sure it poses no threat to the public.

"Whilst this can cause concern and disruption for local communities, it is a necessary precaution until we know what we are dealing with."

The street and nearby buildings were evacuated as the emergency services and army dealt with the incident, before reopening a few hours later.

News Bites

And... action!

YOUNGSTERS in Oxford will get the chance to make their own movie and hold a special screening for their friends and family.

The city council is offering filming sessions for 10 children, aged between 8 and 14 years at Barton Neighbourhood Centre.

Children will be shown how movies are made, including how to edit clips on computers

The sessions start on February 25 from 4pm until 6pm at Barton Neighbourhood Centre.

If you want to be involved or find out more, contact Karimu Corbeek at kcorbeek@oxford.gov.uk or call 01865 252680.

Street attack

A 40-YEAR-OLD man who appeared to be begging in Oxford was assaulted during a conversation with an unknown man earlier this month, who punched him to the ground and kicked him in the chest.

It took place at 5.25pm on February 9 on New Inn Hall Street, and the offender is described as white, wearing a black top and carrying a black backpack.

The victim was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital, where he was treated for a cut lip and swollen jaw. Call 101 with information.

New graduate scheme is set to benefit young people in Oxford

• *MINI Plant Oxford intern Ciaran Raymer discusses performance processes with associate Ziaur Chowdhury*

BMW has launched a new 24-month graduate programme, with the majority of its placements to be in Oxford.

The brand new programme has 13 places available across the country's MINI plants, with eight based at Cowley's Oxford MINI plant.

Starting in October this year, graduates will complete five different placements on strategic and operational projects over a two-year period.

BMW say this will allow apprentices to "gain an insight into business process, strategy and culture from both a UK and global perspective".

Holly Chalmers, BMW Group UK's recruitment and staffing manager, said: "We are looking forward to recruiting talented young people who have a passion for the motor industry."

Student Ciaran Raymer, 23, is currently working at MINI Plant Oxford as an intern as part of his year in industry.

He said: "I've had the opportunity to work with and learn from experts in their respected fields giving me access to an unparalleled level of knowledge.

"The launch of the new graduate scheme is really exciting and will be a great opportunity for anyone wanting to pursue a career in the automotive sector."

For further information visit www.facebook.com/BMWCareersUK. Applications close on February 28.

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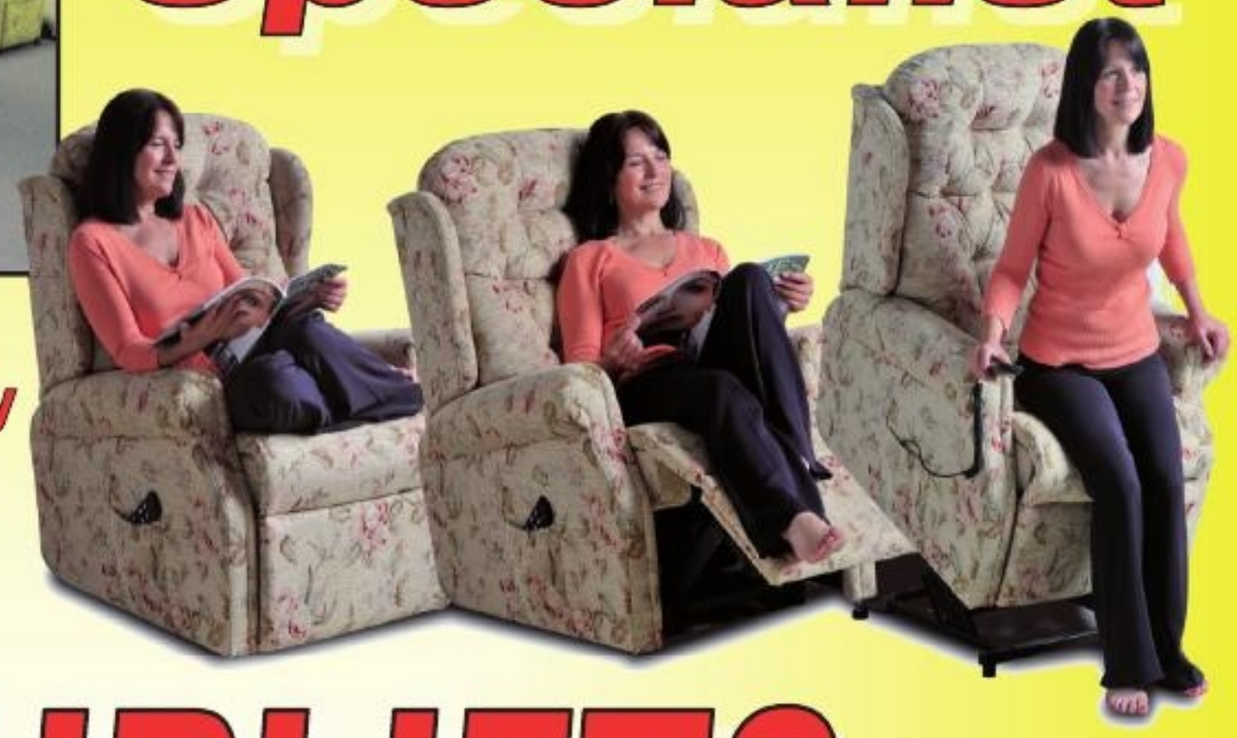

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Oxford leads new stroke research

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

AN OXFORD study into strokes and other acute vascular events is set to be used in a new online resource by the National Institute for Health Research.

The Oxford Vascular Study (OXVASC) was launched online earlier this week.

It looks at strokes, coronary events and peripheral vascular events in a population of 92,000 people across nine Oxfordshire general practices.

It considered the occurrence, causes and consequences of these events, to help doctors get an insight into the different aspects of the conditions.

Professor Peter Rothwell is the principal investigator for OXVASC, and is based at the Stroke Prevention Research Unit, Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences.

He said: "Few of these early recurrent strokes were prevented in practice because of a lack of understanding about the risk and the optima treatment.

"We showed that the early risk of major stroke was very high, we developed simple risk scores to identify which individuals were at highest risk, and we showed how best to prevent major stroke.

"I am delighted to share a platform with some of the country's key researchers in stroke.

"I hope the new online resource helps to raise awareness of clinical research in our region and encourage more patients across the country to take part."

There are around 18,000 strokes per year in the South East, and last year over 2,000 patients in the region took part in stroke research.

The study also looked at Transient Ischaemic Attacks (TIA or 'mini-stroke'), which often precede a major stroke.

This research showed that emergency treatment after TIA reduces the risk of a major stroke by as much as 80 per cent, leading to changes in clinical guidelines in the UK and beyond.

It is estimated that 10,000 strokes will be prevented each year in the UK alone as a result.

Professor Rothwell's study, along with many other research papers relating to strokes, can be found at www.focusonstroke.nihr.ac.uk.

Leader Lottie rising up for women

A THAME woman is leading a group of eight females in a trek to the highest point in North Africa, and is hoping to raise £1,500 for charities Giving Africa and Limb Power.

Lottie Moore, 44, is leading the group up the 4,160m to the summit of Jbel Toubkal in Morocco, which they hope to complete on International Women's Day on March 8.

It comes after Lottie and her daughter moved to Burkina Faso, in West Africa, for much of 2010, after she had been suffering from near poverty.

"At the time I left for Africa I had nothing in my mind more than escaping the life I was living," said Lottie. "It resulted in an experience beyond all expectations.

"Now I am going back to Africa and I can't wait. The six night women's trip climbing Toubkal will be a huge challenge, but it will encourage us to look beyond our limitations.

• *Lottie Moore, pictured during her time in Africa, will be leading eight women to the summit of Morocco's Jbel Toubkal next month*

"None of us have a huge amount of experience as walkers and we are all of regular fitness. I predict we will be getting through a lot of Kleenex with all the tears at the summit!"

Lottie is also the founder of women's help group WISH Women. For more information, go to www.wishwomen.org.uk.

MP's Column

Andrew Smith
MP for Oxford East

Coping with aftermath of flooding devastation

FLOODING continues to be a major concern, even with the welcome news that the relentless arrival of storms and heavy rain may have abated.

In many locations across the county residents are still coping with the aftermath of the floods, and many fields are still under water, with serious consequences for farming.

In my own constituency, such is the flood and groundwater pressure on the sewerage system, that even where their homes haven't been flooded, a number of residents have been unable to use their toilets for weeks on end. It has left them with the unpleasant necessity of trooping out to portaloos in the middle of the night.

This all underlines how essential it is both to get long-term measures in place to prevent flooding, and to do whatever we can in the short term to improve local flood defences.

Lessons are learnt from every flood, and some areas which flooded badly in 2007 have been protected this time, because of flood barriers and intensive pumping. A big thank you to the emergency services, council, Environment Agency and Thames Water front-line workers who have been working so hard to help our communities.

The letter which I, city council Leader Bob Price and Nicola Blackwood MP wrote to the Prime Minister on the economic as well as the human cost of the flooding has resulted in a meeting at No10 Downing Street, where we will be pressing the case for the western relief channel, which is the only measure which will significantly reduce the threat of flooding in Oxford.

The County Council, which is the lead local authority on flooding, has organised a floods summit for March 21, where we will be coordinating our work for flood protection right across the county.

There has been a good community spirit in dealing with these floods. There are always lessons to be learnt. There is always more which needs to be done, both in local measures and in keeping up the global effort against climate change. Whilst no-one can say for sure that recent floods are the consequence of climate change, they are certainly consistent with the greater frequency of abnormal weather events which the science on climate change predicts.

I think it is important that politicians at all levels in our county pull together, across party lines, in getting the measures we need, and the help which affected residents, businesses and farmers deserve. I will do my best to ensure this happens.

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Oxford and Grenoble's 25-year celebrations

Chair signed by stars raffled off for charity

A DECKCHAIR that was signed by a number of music stars at last year's Cornbury Festival is set to be raffled off to raise money for Helen and Douglas House.

Van Morrison, Keane, James Arthur and Imelda May are amongst the names to have signed the chair, which is being offered in the raffle along with a holiday in the Caribbean.

The raffle will be held at Helen and Douglas House's comedy and music fundraiser 'Childish Things' at the Oxford New Theatre next month, which features a line-up including Jimmy Carr and Rob Brydon.

This year's show is set to be the 10th and final 'Childish Things' to take place on March 24 and 25, after organisers cited difficulties in finding acts each year.

It has raised more than £500,000 for the hospice in the past decade, with last year's show collecting over £100,000.

Raffle tickets will be available at the event on March 25, with show tickets starting from £25.

• *Dozens of signatures feature on the deckchair, which will be raffled off for Helen and Douglas House*

Tickets for both days are available from the New Theatre website www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk, or by calling the box office on 0844 871 3020.

A PROGRAMME of art exhibitions, book events, concerts and photography displays are being staged in the city later this year, to celebrate 25 years since the twinning of Oxford and Grenoble, France.

Representatives and twinning association members from Grenoble will travel to Oxford for a week of festivities, taking place between April 26 and May 3.

It has been organised by Oxford City Council and the Oxford-Grenoble Association (OGA), with guests from Grenoble being welcomed at a number of civic and cultural events.

The celebrations will be launched by Lord Mayor of Oxford Cllr Dee Sinclair and OGA chair Mel Houldershaw on April 26 at the Town Hall.

Ms Houldershaw said: "Around 80 performers and Grenoble friends are coming over for the celebrations, led by the dynamic Marie-Christine Simiand, who last year was awarded an MBE for all she has done for us.

"She and Team Grenoble entertained us in style on the 20th twinning anniversary, so now it is Team Oxford's turn!"

Cllr Bob Price, leader of the city council, added: "We are very much looking forward to welcoming our friends from Grenoble.

"The Silver Jubilee of the twinning is an auspicious occasion and the Oxford-Grenoble Association put on a really enjoyable week of events to celebrate the 20th anniversary.

"I am sure that the programme for the 25th will be equally successful and will reflect the strong links that have developed between our two cities."

Key events include the art exhibition 'Alps and Spires' at the Town Hall, book talks at Blackwell's Bookshop and an Anglo-French concert at St John the Evangelist Church.

A photography exhibition by Paul Medley, entitled 'Grenoble University: Between the city and the mountains', will also be staged at Blackwell's Bookshop throughout April.

More information and updates about the week of events can be found at www.oxford.gov.uk/twinning.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

News Bites

Man charged

A 29-YEAR-OLD man has been charged with dangerous driving and speeding in Horspath.

He will appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on February 28.

The charge is in relation to an incident on Cuddesdon Road on January 21.

Plans shown

ROSE Hill Community Centre's final plans have been unveiled at two events organised by Oxford City Council.

The new centre will bring several existing services together under one roof, including the social club, advice centre and youth club, as well as providing a new doctor's surgery, gym and office for Thames Valley Police.

In addition, the existing sports pavilion will be demolished, with the centre expected to be completed during spring 2015.

Cllr Ed Turner, deputy leader of the council, said: "I am pleased that we have been able to show the final plans to the community and show them that we have listened to their feedback.

"We are now in the process of tendering for the developer and we hope work will start on site in the next few months."

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Entertainment

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'We'll do what show requires'

FOLK musicians Éamonn Coyne and Kris Drever come to Didcot's Cornerstone theatre tomorrow, following the release of their critically acclaimed album 'Storymap' last year.

Éamonn and Kris met through the vibrant Edinburgh music scene, and first played together around eight years ago.

Since then, and in between their busy schedules working with other bands and musicians, the pair have continued to work together and release new material.

'Storymap' features a host of their musical friends, including Eliza Carthy, Simon Bradley, Megan Henderson and Calum McIntyre to name a few.

Éamonn's banjo-playing and tenor guitar, twinned with Kris' guitar and mandolin skills, has led to the album becoming increasingly popular.

"The reaction has been fantastic," said Éamonn. "People really like it, and lots of the tracks have been played and played."

Tomorrow's show sees Éamonn and Kris perform from 'Storymap' and their first collaboration 'Honk Toot Suite', as well as their own solo work.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Éamonn added: "We tend to do lots of stuff, we're not specific to one album.

"We have a repertoire of about two hours to work from, so if you do an hour and a half show, you can only get through some of the stuff.

"We'll choose whatever we think the show requires, and just whatever we think about really.

"You basically get the best of the two of us, that's the idea. People who've come to the show before know what to expect."

Éamonn's solo album 'Through the Round Window' was released in 2002, while Kris' two releases are the 2006 album 'Black Water' and the 2010 record 'Mark the Hard Earth'.

The pair will combine tracks from these as well as their two albums recorded together, in what promises to be an entertaining show.

Tickets cost £14.50 for an 8pm start. For more information, go to www.cornerstone-arts.org or call 01235 515144.

• *Kris Drever (left) and Éamonn Coyne come to the Cornerstone on Saturday*

La Traviata

LA Traviata, Verdi's classic tale of love and sacrifice telling the story of 'fallen woman' Violetta, comes to the North Wall Arts Centre tomorrow and Saturday.

Three men rule Violetta's life, and this production reveals the hypocrisy and heartache behind the prohibition era of Atlantic City in 1928.

Both shows start at 7.30pm. More details are available at www.thenorthwall.com.

She's a sinner

TEENAGE singer Lauren Aquilina performs at Oxford's O2 Academy on Saturday, following the release of her second EP 'Sinners'.

Eighteen-year-old Lauren has been writing songs for the past decade, playing the piano since she was nine, and has already amassed almost two million video views.

Doors open at 7pm. Go to www.o2academyoxford.co.uk for more information.

Straits tribute

GUITAR ace John Brunsdon and his band of accomplished musicians, joined by saxophonist Nigel Hodge, pay tribute to Dire Straits at their show at Banbury's Mill Arts Centre on Saturday.

Known as Dire Streets, the group are considered as one of the best Dire Straits tribute acts playing in the UK, as they capture the sound of one of the biggest guitar bands of all time.

Go to www.themillartscentre.co.uk for further details.

Comedy night

STAND-UP comedians Adam Bloom, Chris Martin, Andrew Bird and Mark Olver make up the line-up at Oxford's Glee Club on Saturday.

The gig is part of the club's regular series of comedians on a Saturday evening. Doors open at 7.15pm, and booking details can be found at www.glee.co.uk/oxford.

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'It's about piecing it together'

Sunny Ormonde

SUNNY Ormonde, also known as Lilian from The Archers, speaks about her 12 years on the renowned show at Didcot Cornerstone on Saturday.

As well as The Archers, Sunny has performed in numerous other productions during her career, and Saturday's show will also include a Q&A with the actress.

It begins at 2pm. More details are available at www.cornerstone-arts.org.

Hugless Doug

THE tale of lovable brown bear Hugless Douglas, who really wants a hug, comes to Henley's Kenton Theatre on Sunday.

Suitable for children aged three to seven, Douglas discovers that there are many hugs to choose from, but none can beat a big bear hug from his mum.

Two shows are planned for 11am and 2pm. Go to www.kentontheatre.co.uk for more information.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

BRIGHTON-BASED two-piece band Royal Blood make their first trip to Oxford on Wednesday, following their recent nomination in the BBC Sound of 2014 poll.

Made up of vocalist Ben Thatcher and bass player Mike Keer, the band has only been performing for the past 18 months, and last week released their latest single 'Little Monster'.

This upcoming tour is in preparation for the duo's first album, which they are hoping to release by the end of the year.

"We've been writing for the last year," said Ben. "We've got quite a lot of the songs recorded, it's just about piecing it together now.

"It's all been pretty crazy for us really. We didn't think the first single ('Out of the Black') would blow up so big, so quickly.

"I guess releasing that first song we didn't expect the radioplay that it got or anything like that for a four-minute heavy rock song.

"Because we didn't have that much of a status right there for the band, we thought we'll gradually get up there, but it went really well and it's still doing really well. We were amazed."

Royal Blood's popularity has increased rapidly since they started off in October 2012, with comparisons made between them and The Black Keys, The White Stripes and Queens of the Stone Age.

Their first single received airplay on Radio One, XFM and Australian station Triple J, and they are now looking forward to their first headline tour.

Ben added: "We did our first supporting tour in October, which went really well, so we're looking forward to getting back out to those venues again and doing it properly!

"There's going to be a couple of new songs that we're going to be trying out. The set's going to be a little bit longer, so we'll see how it goes really."

Wednesday's show takes place at The Art Bar in Oxford, with doors open at 7.30pm. For more details about the band, go to www.facebook.com/royalblooduk.

• *Ben Thatcher (left) and Mike Keer make their first visit to Oxford next week*

Classic thriller

FREDERICK Knott's intense and gripping thriller Dial M for Murder comes to the Oxford Playhouse from Tuesday, starring popular TV actor Christopher Timothy.

The story follows Tony Wendice, who is plotting the perfect murder, but the plan goes awry in this tale of betrayal and passion.

Seven shows are scheduled, and full details are available at www.oxfordplayhouse.com.

Kate Tempest

POET and spoken word artist Kate Tempest is at the North Wall Arts Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday, to tell an everyday epic over a live score played by tuba, cello, violin, drums and electronics.

Both shows start at 8pm, and booking details can be found at www.thenorthwall.com.

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21 February, 7pm - 11pm
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Fast rising singer Harleighblu kicks off the year with a run of UK dates in February & March showcasing a new live band set-up, with fresh electronic elements and visuals. This tour builds on an incredible 2013 which saw Nottingham native Harleighblu acknowledged as one of the most promising young stars of UK music for her arresting, charismatic voice and edgy brand of hip hop-infused soul.

21 February, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
The North Wall, Oxford
LA TRAVIATA
Verdi's classical tale of love and sacrifice has been thrilling audiences for generations. This is the story of Violetta and the three men who rule her life. Set in Atlantic City in 1928 this new production reveals the hypocrisy and heartache behind the glittering façade of the prohibition era's speakeasies and bootlegging.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

21 February, 8pm
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22 February, 8:20pm - 11pm
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20.45 Beard Of Destiny
21.30 The Lucky Club
22.15 The Heavy Dexters
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22 - 23 February, 7:30am - 9:30am
The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay near Oxford
ALAN HEEKS: INNER PEACE IN A CHANGING WORLD
A unique weekend retreat on February 22-23 will show how the great spiritual teachers can help us find happiness and resilience amid the uncertainties of modern life.
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The Anvil
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25 - 26 February, 8pm - 9pm
The North Wall, Oxford
BRAND NEW ANCIENTS
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25 February - 1 March
Oxford Playhouse
DIAL M FOR MURDER
This hit show stars Christopher Timothy, best known for his roles in popular TV shows All Creatures Great and Small and Doctors. Famously directed on screen by Alfred Hitchcock, this exciting and claustrophobic production is directed by Lucy Bailey, who has worked for many of the country's leading theatre companies, including the National Theatre and Shakespeare's Globe.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

26 February, 8:30pm
The Lamb Inn, Mill Street, Wantage
DAVE MOORWOOD'S RASCALS OF RHYTHM
with special guest - cornet player Andy Woon
No admission charge.

Friday 28 February,7.30 pm
Drayton Village Hall, Lockway OX14 4LF
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Their act has been described as 'bare-knuckle acoustic balladry' (bare-knuckle as in 'stripped back') & also as 'barnstorming ribaldry'.
Tickets £8 & £12 (with buffet) available from Vickery's hardware (in Drayton) or call 01235 531180.

28 February, 5pm
Oxford Playhouse
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Entertainment

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www.oxfordplayhouse.com

28 February, 8pm - 8pm
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www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

1 March, 7:30pm
St Mary's Church, Streatley on Thames
CHARITY CONCERT FOR GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL
All pieces are either light classical or traditional music, (instrumental pieces, arias or poems) and all
are cheerful and also short. It's a slightly unusual form of concert in that there are between 20 and 30 voluntary performers who have very generously given their time to perform one or two pieces each, as solos, duo or trios. (Tickets cost £5)
stmarysconcerts@hotmail.co.uk

1 March, 11am - 12pm
The North Wall, Oxford
GRANDPA'S RAILWAY
Featuring a working model railway, live music and two very playful characters, Grandpa's Railway is a journey of discovery that explores the past, illuminates the present and lays new tracks for the future.
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1 March, 9am - 5pm
The Mix on Mill Street, Wantage
GIRLGUIDING TAKEOVER
Find out what Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers do!
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Look inside a tent
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1 March, 2pm - 4pm
Cumnor Village Hall
JUMBLE SALE
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1 March, 5pm
Vue Bicester. Cineworld Didcot. Phoenix Picturehouse Oxford. The Regal Henley-onThames. Cineworld Witney.
THE MET: LIVE IN HD BORODIN: PRINCE IGOR
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www.Metopera.org/uk

1 - 24 March, 10am - 4pm
The Sewell Centre Gallery, Radley College, Abingdon
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1 March, 7pm
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2 March
Orchard Centre Didcot
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www.oxfordplayhouse.com

4 March, 8pm
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5 March - 6 March, 8pm
The North Wall, Oxford
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5 March - 8 March
The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury
GOD OF CARNAGE
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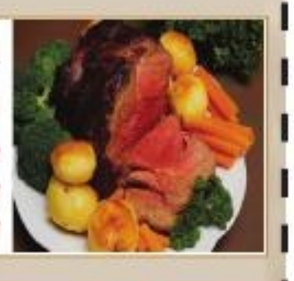

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Advertising Feature

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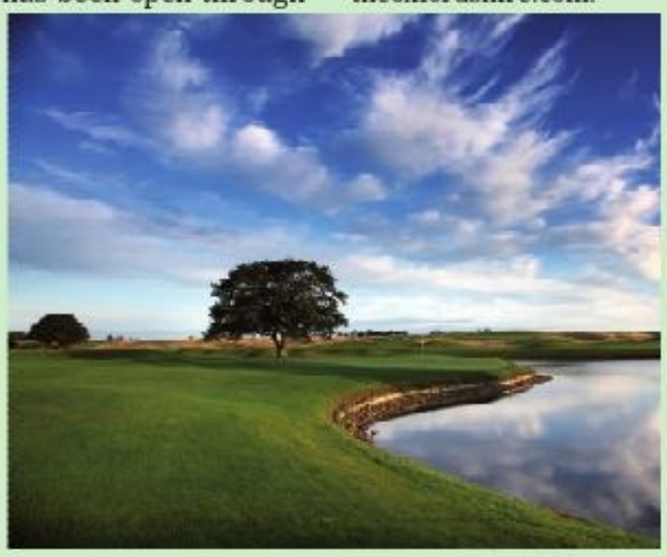
The introduction of this unique membership has seen a significant increase in members at The Oxfordshire and continues to grow, due to the success of this the product, it will be rolled out at sister properties Chart Hills, Dale Hill and Sandford Springs from Spring 2014.

Ryan Bezuidenhout, Group Sales and Marketing Manager, 'we are making golf accessible with arguably the best value membership package available at the regions' most prestigious Resort. Additionally due to the continued investment on the course The Oxfordshire has been open throughout the recent adverse weather, another reason why membership at The Oxfordshire provides the best value.

For further details on membership option contact Justin Barnes on justinb@theoxfordshire.com.



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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

	8			5	1			4
		6			4		3	7
	1	2	9			8		
2	5	8	3	6				
	7						9	
				4	2	6	8	5
		1			7	5	6	
3	6		2			4		
9			1	3			7	

	9					5	8	
		3	4	8				
	6		9			1	2	
			5			7		
7		1				2		9
		6			9			
	1	8			5		7	
				9	8	4		
	7	4					9	

	7		2					1
	5	4			3			2
		3			6	5		
	6	1						
7								3
						8	9	
		2	6			4		
3			1			2	8	
5					7		1	

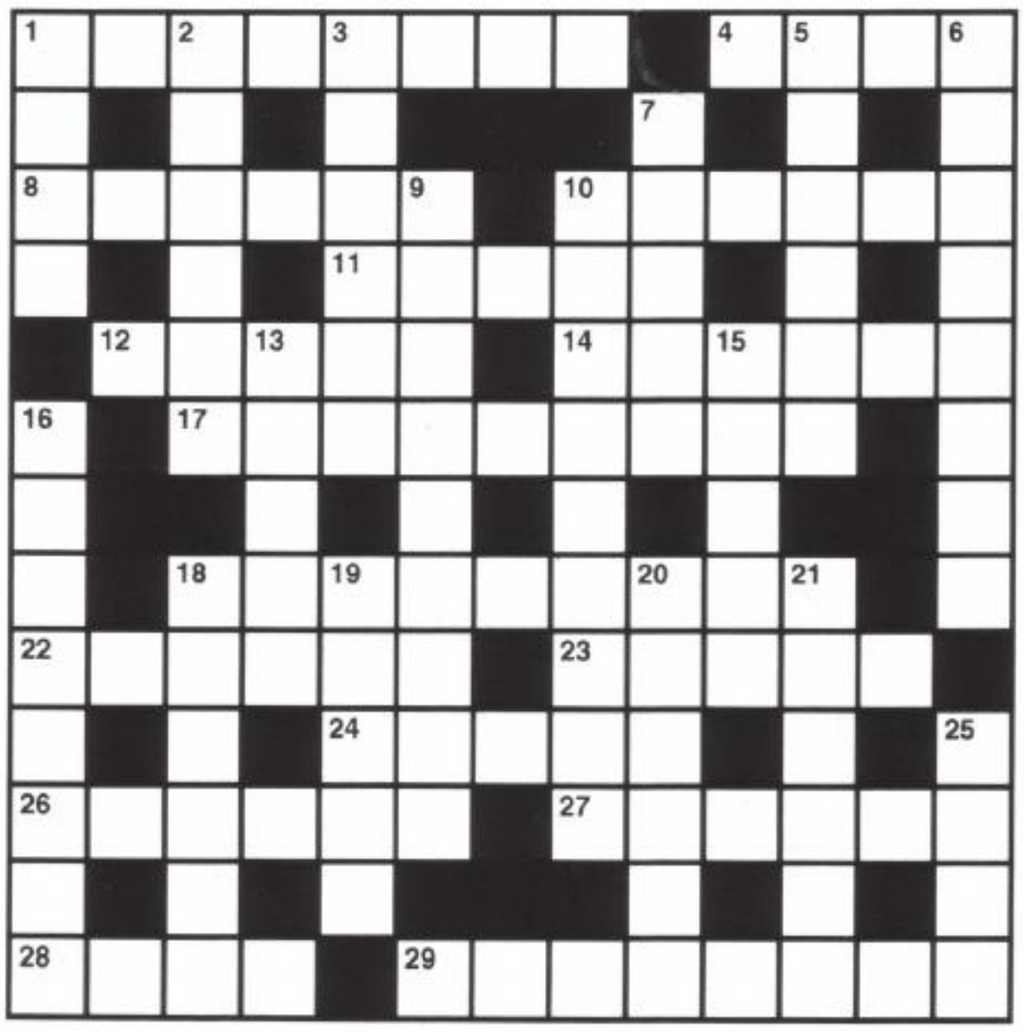
Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across
1 Pain in the spinal area (8)
4 Group of musicians (4)
8 Very small (6)
10 Thwarts (6)
11 Combine (5)
12 Colloquial language (5)
14 Infallible guide (6)
17 Somnambulate (9)
18 Following closely (9)
22 Property (6)
27 Displeasure (5)
24 Salvers (5)
26 Insect that preys on others (6)
27 Twine (6)
28 Bird's home (4)
29 Makes steady (8)

Quick Clues Down
1 Collide (4)
2 Waterways (6)
3 Bring into harmony (6)
5 Onslaught (6)
6 Courses served at end of meals (8)
7 Musical drama (5)
9 Causes (9)
10 Those who hide to obtain free passage (9)
13 Greek letter (5)
15 By the side of (5)
16 Boatman (8)
18 Raised platforms (6)
19 Garret (5)
20 Put in gradually (6)
21 Exceptional intellectual ability (6)
25 Grows old (4)

Cryptic Clues Across
1 Garment in which Lois, upset, came round (8)
4 The extent of a Middle East seaport? (4)
8 Mac and Ian get together quite mad (6)
10 They figure largely in string bands (6)
11 He's in a cap - how common! (5)
12 Prophet needs a shoe repaired (5)
14 A gypsy in the army? No (6)
17 Communist compiler is a real dog (3,6)
18 These stories have real logic (9)
22 One who goes via the south gets on (6)
23 Brings up behind? (5)
24 Not very much and rather stale (5)
26 The Italian's hidden somewhere in the shed for protection (6)
27 Attention, donkey. You've deserved it (6)
28 Palmy appointment (4)
29 They should produce a good yarn (8)

Cryptic Clues Down
1 People are often intent on getting here (4)
2 There's no term arrangement for the tutor (6)
3 Arranged intervals (for astronauts?) (6)
5 It's got a neck (6)
6 He's certainly willing to try (8)
7 Drank heavily, up at headquarters (5)
9 Ten get chased round and punished (9)
10 There's an animal in the orchestra (4-5)
13 Beastly creatures likely to get in a wax (5)
15 Agencies in the same diagram (5)
16 Calmly made up (8)
18 His work is a real picture (6)
19 Hangs loosely with three pounds so out (5)
20 Keep it near maybe (6)
21 Fawn is sound as a bell at heart (6)
25 Does it produce poems? (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

9	2	1	6	5	7	3	4	8
4	8	5	1	9	3	2	6	7
7	3	6	4	2	8	9	5	1
8	9	7	2	1	6	4	3	5
5	6	2	8	3	4	7	1	9
3	1	4	5	7	9	6	8	2
2	5	3	9	4	1	8	7	6
6	7	9	3	8	5	1	2	4
1	4	8	7	6	2	5	9	3

6	5	9	2	4	3	8	1	7
3	7	4	1	9	8	2	5	6
1	2	8	7	5	6	3	4	9
9	3	1	6	7	5	4	2	8
8	4	2	3	1	9	7	6	5
7	6	5	8	2	4	1	9	3
4	9	7	5	8	1	6	3	2
5	8	3	4	6	2	9	7	1
2	1	6	9	3	7	5	8	4

4	9	7	8	5	1	2	6	3
1	3	6	9	2	7	5	4	8
2	5	8	6	4	3	7	9	1
7	6	3	1	9	8	4	2	5
9	1	4	2	3	5	8	7	6
8	2	5	4	7	6	3	1	9
6	4	1	5	8	2	9	3	7
3	8	9	7	1	4	6	5	2
5	7	2	3	6	9	1	8	4

Quick Crossword
Across: 4 Affirm 8 Section 9 Serves 10 Attendant 11 Urge 13 Teeth 14 Scatter 16 Deports 18 Germs 19 Anon 21 Condiment 22 Sandal 23 Density 24 Nasser
Down: 1 Gentlemen 2 Attention 3 Bonds 5 Feet 6 Invert 7 Master 9 Snack 11 Uttermost 12 Germinate 15 Stool 16 Damson 17 Points 20 Adder 21 Care

Cryptic Crossword
Across: 4 Obtuse 8 Allayed 9 Italic 10 Locksmith 11 Beds 13 Groom 14 Umpires 16 Contain 18 Flout 19 Emus 21 Fireworks 22 Ensued 23 Herring 24 Tidier
Down: 1 Elbow room 2 Jackboots 3 Seems 5 Bath 6 Uglier 7 Excess 9 Items 11 Billboard 12 Debunking 15 Livid 16 Cement 17 Nursed 20 Rebel 21 Fete

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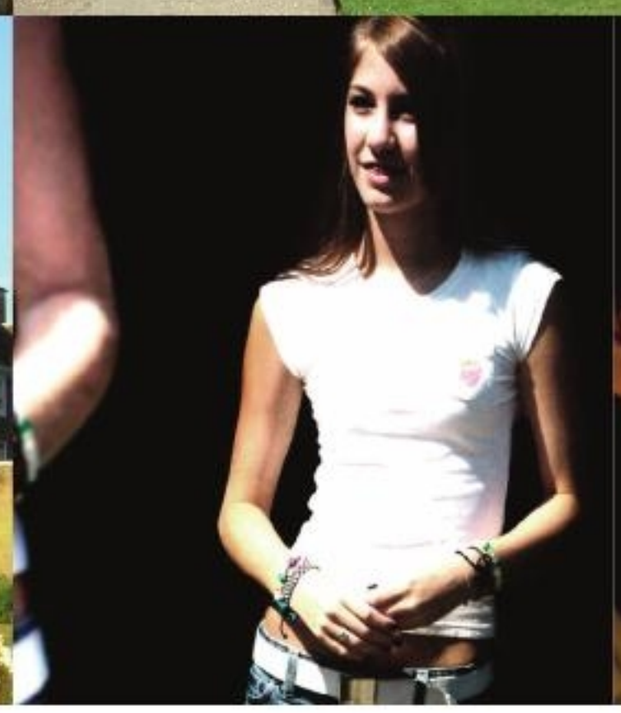
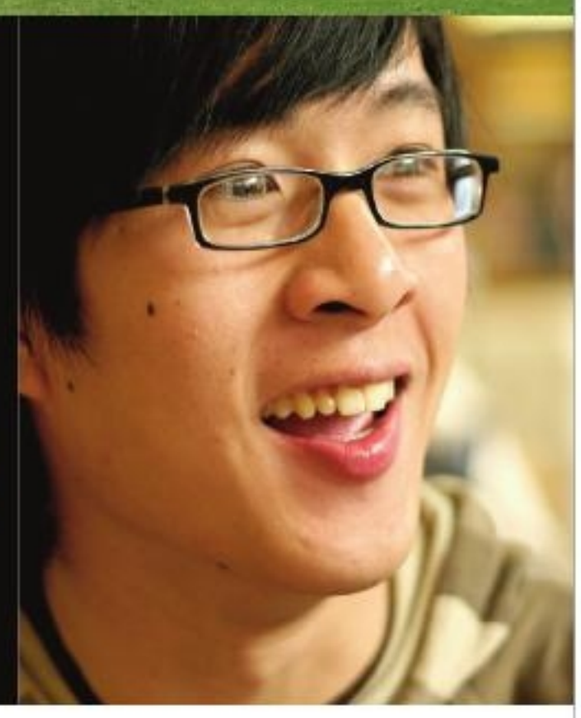

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Compere

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Andrew Roper With ten years of experience, this newcomer to London oozes confidence and charm. His slick appearance conceals a sharp edged style that has delighted audiences all over Australia and New Zealand, both on stage and on radio.

"Churns out the laughs"– **HERALD SUN**
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Open Spots
These are fairly new comedians that are looking for some practice and stage time.

Gabriel Ebulue

Bisha Ali

Headline Act

Steve Day is a truly unique comedian – warm, witty and engaging whilst dealing with the dilemmas of being a deaf man in a hearing world. His stories of multiple children, wearing a suit and the problems caused by not knowing how words are pronounced will have audiences in raptures, and his uplifting tales of overcoming the obstacles in his path will leave crowds feeling inspired.

"revelatory and very funny" – **The Guardian**

Please bear in mind that this show will contain strong language and adult humour

Management Disclaimer: Please note – that while we make every effort, shows can change without notice due to unforeseen circumstances and commitments of artists

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HEADLINE

Markus Birdman

25th April Friday's Line-up
MC Ben Van der Velde

David Whitney
HEADLINE

Bennett Arron

30th May Friday's Line-up
MC Paul T Eyres

Nick Dixon
HEADLINE

Nick Revell

27th June Friday's Line-up
MC Karen Bayley

Andy White
HEADLINE

Brian Higgins

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WIN family tickets to Zippo's Circus

Closing date

Friday, March 7, 2014

ZIPPO'S Circus is back in town on its annual visit to South Park, Oxford from 20th to 25th March. The famous circus, fresh from five-star success during the Christmas season at Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, will present a brand-new production titled Unchained.

Zippo's Circus is honoured to announce that our new 2014 show includes a clown troupe widely acknowledged as among the greatest in the world. Originated in the 1930s, three generations of the Rastellis have performed with unremitting success, delighting audiences everywhere and winning every major Circus award. Their act is described as 'a perfectly oiled machine...a fast succession of absurd sight gags, coming in and out of the ring at breakneck pace'.

Not to mention the exploding piano...!

Zippo's Circus will perform at South Park, off Cheney Lane, Oxford, under the heated Big Top from 20th to 25th March with a brilliant new 2014 production titled 'Unchained'. The new show stars globally-renowned clowns The Rastellis and features equestrian princess Summer with her beautiful horses.

Win tickets!

Zippo's have given us Ten Family Tickets, each for 2 adults and 2 children at any performance (subject to availability). To be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer this simple question:

Q: Who is the equestrian performer at Zippo's Circus?

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Mother's Day feature

Sunday March 30th 2014

Give Mum a morning to savour

By **Diana Pilkington**

IT MAY be the one time of year when mothers get to be waited on by their offspring, so why not start Mothering Sunday as you mean to go on with a lovingly prepared brunch or breakfast in bed?

With Dad taking charge in the kitchen, there are plenty of easy chores the little ones can tackle while Mum gets a well-deserved lie-in. And learning how to cook could have a positive impact on fussy young eaters as well.

Children's cookery expert Annabel Karmel says: "Tasks such as cracking eggs and stirring are well within the capabilities of a young child and it is amazing how being involved in the planning and preparation of a meal can stimulate a child's appetite."

When it comes to cooking with your kids, Karmel recommends picking recipes that lead to quick results as children have short attention spans.

"To start with, choose recipes that are simple enough for your child to make without too much help from you, then you can build up a repertoire of recipes they feel confident doing by themselves," she says.

Karmel's safety tips for cooking with kids

- Always make sure children wash their hands before doing any cooking.
- Never use wet hands to turn on a switch or pull out a plug.
- If they need to stand on a chair to reach the work surface, make sure it's very stable.
- Explain about heat and the dangers of steam, hot pans and hobs.

Now try one of these these yummy brunch recipes to make mum smile...

Devilled mushrooms

(Serves 1)
25g butter
150g chestnut mushrooms, thinly sliced
2-3 drops Worcestershire sauce
¬°tsp Dijon mustard
3tbsp creme fraiche (low fat is fine)
1 muffin, split and toasted
1tsp fresh chopped parsley (optional)

Melt half the butter in a medium frying pan. Add the mushrooms and saute over a high heat for 6-8 minutes until the mushrooms are golden. Stir in the Worcestershire sauce and mustard. Remove from the heat and stir in the creme fraiche.

Sit the muffin on a plate, spread with the remaining butter toasted side up, and spoon over the mushrooms. You can sprinkle with a little choppedparsley if you like.

Breakfast bear pancakes

(Serves 1)
125g self-raising flour
1 egg
125ml milk
4tbsp creme fraiche
1tsp vanilla extract
3tbsp maple syrup
20g butter
2tbsp vegetable oil
Fresh fruit, to serve (optional)

Chop up your fruit - thinking about what might work for your pancake bear's ears (banana), eyes (blueberries), arms (strawberries) and feet (kiwi) - be as creative as you like!

Put the flour in a large bowl. Whisk together the egg, milk, creme fraiche, vanilla, maple syrup and a pinch of salt. Add this mixture to the flour and whisk to make a batter (there may be a few small lumps, but don't worry).

Melt the butter in a large non-stick frying pan and tip it into a small bowl.

Mix 1 tablespoon of the melted butter into the batter. Use the rest to grease the pan. Drop 2 tablespoons of batter into the frying pan and cook the pancake for 2 minutes until brown underneath and just set on top (with small bubbles).

Flip over and cook for a further 1-2 minutes until golden and cooked through.

Lay one pancake slightly over the other - decide which will be the head and which will make the body and decorate with your fruit.

For more family recipes download *Annabel Karmel's Essential Guide to Feeding your Baby and Toddler* **available on iTunes and Google Play for £3.99**

Annabel Karmel's Devilled Mushrooms (left) and Breakfast Bear Pancakes (below).PA Photo/ Annabel Karmel

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New Peugeot 308 proves a classy and sophisticated presence

From strength to strength

PEUGEOT'S new 308 continues the French firm's move up market; an initiative recently seen with the 208 and 2008.

With well-balanced proportions, the new car projects a classy and sophisticated presence: the front dominated by the brand's 'floating' front grille and the rear showcasing the three Peugeot (lion) 'claws' drawn by the rear LED lamps.

The 308 has also been on a serious diet, loosing around 140kg compared to its predecessor, leading to significant reductions in emissions - this HDi 92 variant emitting 99 g/km of CO2.

REVIEW: PEUGEOT 308

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

Step inside and you'll instantly notice a much more sophisticated cabin than before.

There's a similar pod binnacle layout as used in the 208, but here that integration with the rest of the dashboard is more fluid and sleeker.

Build quality sees a marked improvement on the old 308; everything feeling very well screwed together and the sound (or lack of) the doors closing is remarkable.

The new range comprises Access, Active, Allure and Feline models. Even this lower-end Active model gets a 9.7" touch screen infotainment system, incorporating satellite navigation; dual zone air conditioning, 16" alloys; USB input; Bluetooth, DAB radio; Auto lights and rear parking sensors.

An integrated infotainment system impresses with its look, feel and functionality and incorporates satellite navigation.

The majority of switchgear is accessed via intuitive on-screen menus, which keeps the dash uncluttered.

The 308's driving position is good, and the seats are comfortable and supportive.

Front and side visibility is good, but rearward it is hampered by a letter-box-shaped back window and thick C-pillars.

A fair amount of storage space and cubbies can be found in the 308's cabin, although the glove-box and door bins are on the petite side.

Headroom is generous, even on cars equipped with a glass panoramic roof. Leg room scores well, too, but in the rear it's on the tight side, only just managing to accommodate two six-footers front and back.

The boot is decently shaped and sized, at 470 litres. Rear seats fold 60/40, albeit leaving a slight step.

Although modestly powered, the 92 bhp 1.6 litre diesel's 230 Nm of torque allows for good tractability at low revs and ensures you won't be up and down the gearbox every time you encounter a hill, either.

Mixed route driving returned an average 47 mpg, some way off the claimed 74.3.

• *The new Peugeot 308*

The five-speed manual gearbox doesn't quite have the slickness of the firm's six-speeder, but remains good. Brakes are reassuringly responsive, without being over-sensitive.

The chassis is fluid and controlled, which keeps the 308 flat through the corners, while the ride remains supple and smooth. Steering is responsive, but does lack some feel.

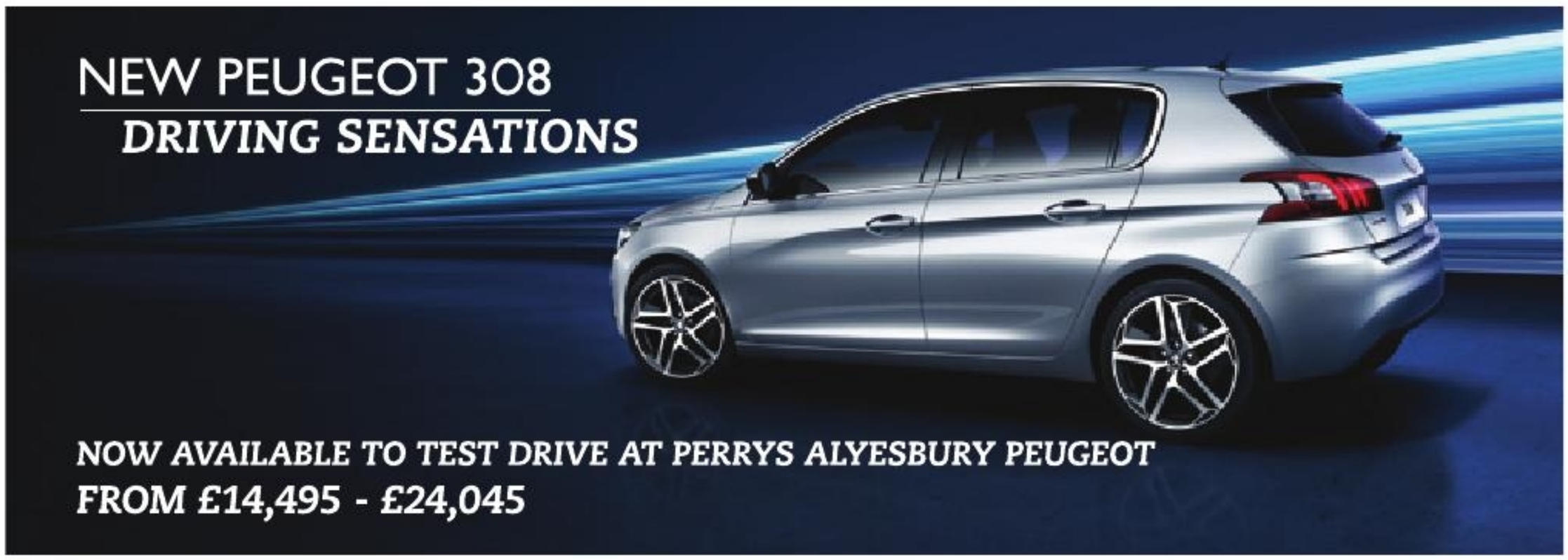
Refinement levels are about right for this class: the engine never booms and minimal tyre and wind noise enters the cabin.

VERDICT:

Peugeot have been going from strength-to-strength over recent years. This new 308 is the culmination of their efforts: it's a much better car than its predecessor and is worthy of comparison with any current rival.

Facts at a glance

OTR Price: £17,895
Engine: 1.6-litre 4cyl, diesel
Max Power: 92 bhp @ 4000 rpm
Torque: 230Nm at 1750 rpm
Transmission: Five-speed manual
0-62 mph: 11.3 seconds
Combined MPG: 74.3 (claimed)
CO2 emissions: (g/km) 99
Annual Road tax: £0



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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the 308 range are: Urban 35.7 – 67.3 (7.9 – 4.2), Extra Urban 61.4 – 85.6 (4.6 – 3.3), Combined 48.7 – 78.5 (5.8 – 3.6) and CO2 134 – 95.
MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on the road driving conditions. On the road prices quoted include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty and £55 Government First Registration Fee.

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The independent garage emerged victorious following a very competitive voting campaign, which saw the garage take to social media and local press to canvass votes.

The CAT awards are one of the largest of their kind in the automotive industry and Scotlands Ash Garage was up against two other garages throughout the UK.

Scotlands Ash Garage proprietor, Peter Welch, said: "It's incredible. We're a small business but we work hard to raise the profile of good car servicing and repair across Oxfordshire. To have so many people from the local area cast their vote for us is amazing and I'd like to say thanks to all of them for their support. And, to the Scotlands Ash Team, family, friends and customers, who have been with us on our journey, we thank them enormously."

In addition to Peter, the Scotlands Ash Team comprises of trained mechanics Steve Moxon, Nathan Edwards, Jack Jones, Stuart Florey and administrative support Gillian Hyde.

The CAT awards ceremony took place on 7 February at Twickenham Rugby Stadium, West London. CAT magazine is part of media giant Haymarket Media Group. Car & Accessory Trader is a leading business magazine aimed at the UK automotive aftermarket. Launched in 1979, CAT is widely regarded as the aftermarket's most reliable source of information, business advice, news and views.

Scotlands Ash Garage, Proprietor, Peter Welch

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda6 range: Urban 36.2 (7.8) - 60.1 (4.7), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9) - 83.1 (3.4), Combined 47.9 (5.9) - 72.4 (3.9). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 136 – 104.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

Retail sales only, subject to vehicle availability for vehicles registered between 01.01.14 and 31.03.14 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *0% finance available on all Mazda6 models with no minimum deposit on Mazda Personal Contract Purchase. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Finance subject to status. 18s or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Models shown: Mazda6 Saloon 150ps Sport Diesel, OTR £25,195. Mazda6 Tourer 150ps Sport Diesel. OTR £25,995. Models shown feature optional Soul Red Metallic paint (£660). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European roadside assistance. Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. †On selected models only. Details correct at time of going to publication and may vary, e.g. if list price changes. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified. Johnsons Cars Ltd is an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Limited which is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch B97 4DA. United Kingdom. Registration No. 3716766 VAT Registration No. GB927551606.

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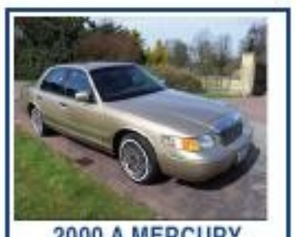

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11 11 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 115PS ZETEC, 3dr, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, Blue tooth USB, air con, 5 spd, ABS, ESP, front fogs, HFS, DAD radio/CD, alloys, PAS, 6 airbags, a/c, FSH, one owner from new, very low mileage 27,638 miles

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09 09 FIAT DOBLO DYNAMIC ESTATE 1.4 8V PETROL, 5dr, single wheel chair conversion, 3 SEATS, met red/grey, 5spd, PAS, c/l, access ramp & winch, r/

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10 60 MONDEO TITANIUM 2.0 PETROL 1.4PS TITANIUM, 5spd, 5 dr, chill met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio CD, heated screen, climate control, front fogs, alloys, ABS, ESP, cruise, front & rear park sensors, PAS, 7 a/b, auto lights/wipers, B'tooth, service history, one owner from new, 35,814 miles. **£8,495**

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10 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI 110PS 5DR 5SPD ZETEC, panther black met/grey, ew/&m, c/l, front fogs, PAS, a/c, HFS, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, rear park sensors, 2 owners from new, £30RFL per year, 17,696 miles **£8,995**

12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS AUTOMATIC 6 SPD ZETEC, 5dr, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, Blue tooth, PAS, a/c, alloys, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, ESP, ABS, FSH, one owner from new, very low mileage 3,495 miles **£12,695**

09 09 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL TITANIUM AUTO, 5dr, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, cruise control, auto lights & wipers., c/l, alloys, DAB radio/CD, climate, HFS, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, 2 owners from new, very low mileage, FSH, 14,055 miles **£7,595**

06 56 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL ZETEC CLIMATE, 5 dr, tonic blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, PAS, a/c, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, ABS, 2 owners from new, service history, 67,747 miles **£4,795**

11 11 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 115PS ZETEC, 3dr, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, Blue tooth USB, air con, 5 spd, ABS, ESP, front fogs, HFS, DAD radio/CD, alloys, PAS, 6 airbags, a/c, FSH, one owner from new, very low mileage 27,638 miles **£8,995**

11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC, 5dr, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, PAS, Blue tooth, alloys, front fogs, heated windscreen, ABS, ESP, 29,000 miles **£10,395**

08 08 FOCUS 1.8 PETROL 125PS STYLE, 5dr, panther black/grey, c/l, r/CD, e/w&m, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, ESP, 2 owners from new, service history, 53,446 miles **£5,595**

12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC ESTATE, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, alloys, a/c, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, Blue tooth USB, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturers warranty, one owner from new, FSH, 17,900 miles **£11,995**

11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles **£8,995**

13 63 FOCUS 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC NAVIGATOR NEW MODEL, 5dr, deep impact blue met/grey, sat nav, B'tooth & USB, e/w & m, 17" alloys, privacy glass, ABS, EP, reverse park sensors, 6 airbags, 2 years old and 9 months manufacturer's warranty, only £20 RFL per year, 3,413 miles **£13,995**

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10 60 FUSION 1.4 PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, moondust silver met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, r/CD, 2 airbags, PAS, HFS, alloys, ABS, air con, one owner from new, low mileage 19,300 miles **£7,795**

C MAX S MAX B MAX

12 12 GRAND C MAX 1.6 TDCI 115PS DIESEL ZETEC 7 SEATER MPV, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, heated windscreen, 6 spd, DAB radio & CD, PAS, c/l, ABS, ESP, Blue tooth, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, alloys, very low mileage 4,228 miles, one owner from new, FSH..... **£13,995**

12 12 S MAX 1.6T ECOBOOST 160PS TITANIUM, panther black met/grey, 6spd, e/w&m, r/CD, c/l, Blue tooth connectivity, HFS, climate, auto lights & wipers, front fogs, cruise, PAS, one owner, full service history, very low mileage 6,200 miles ..... **SOLD**

11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack inc. park assist & fold mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH **£11,995**

13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 8,800 miles, RFL £30 per year..... **£12,995**

KA

10 60 KA TITANIUM 1.2, petrol, 3dr, moonlight silver met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, climate, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, fr fogs, alloys, 2 a/bags, ABS, 2 owners from new, only £30 RFL/year, 34,827 miles . **£6,995**

09 09 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, strobe met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD 2 a/b, ABS, 2 local owners, FSH, only £30 12 months RFL, 53,400 miles..... **£4,795**

13 63 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, flame red/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, delivery mileage only 6 miles, RFL only £30 for 12 months, 3 years manufacturers warranty **£7,995**

13 63 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, delivery mileage only 6 miles, RFL only £30 for 12 months, 3 years manufacturers warranty **£8,195**

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11 60 FIESTA 1.25 PETROL ZETEC 82PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, front fogs, 5 airbags, aircon, HFS, alloys, ABS, ESP, one owner from new, FSH, 35,948 miles..... **£8,595**

10 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL 96PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, cruise control, 5 airbags, alloys, radio/CD, ABS, ESP, PAS, climate, one owner from new, low mileage 15,000 miles, FSH **£8,995**

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09 59 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 1.6 AUTO, petrol, 5dr, safari gold, grey/red trim, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, alloys, a/c, front fogs, 6 a/bs, ABS, B'tooth, s/history, 2 owners from new, v low mileage 11,521.... **£7,595**

09 09 FIAT DOBLO DYNAMIC ESTATE 1.4 8V PETROL, 5dr, single wheel chair conversion, 3 SEATS, met red/grey, 5spd, PAS, c/l, access ramp & winch, r/CD, a/c, alloys, a arbags, e/w&m, TWO LOCAL OWNERS FROM NEW, VERY LOW MILEAGE 3,682 miles **£6,995**

07 57 VW POLO 1.2E 60PS, 3dr, blue met/grey, 5 spd, c/l, r/C, PAS, 2 airbags, ABS, low insurance group, RFL 12 months £125, FSH, 57,927 miles **£4,395**

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04 54 FOCUS .16I PETROL LX HATCH, tonic blue met/grey, 5 spd, a/c, PAS, e/w, heated front screen, alloys, r/CD, 4 airbags, ABS, 2 owners from new, 76,474 miles **£3,495**

03 53 FOCUS GHIA 2.0 PETROL AUTO ESTATE, deep rosso red met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6 CD player, PAS, climate, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, traction control, 3 owners from new, service history, low mileage for age 73,281 miles **£3,495**

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12 PLATE KA 1.2 PETROL STUDIO, 3dr, sunrise red/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, one owner from new, service history

63 PLATE FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 5DR TITANIUM, 6 spd, powershift automatic, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, cruise & climate control, auto lights & wipers, front fogs, alloys, HFS, one owner from new, very low mileage, 2 years manufacturer's warranty

13 PLATE FOCUS 1.0T PETROL 100PS 5DR TITANIUM, 5 spd, ink blue met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, cruise + climate control, auto lights & wipers, front fogs, alloys, HFS, one owner from new, low mileage, 2 years manufacturer's warranty

11 PLATE FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR DIESEL, ink blue met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, one owner from new, 9 months manufacturer's warranty, only £30RFL per year

11 PLATE FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC 5DR PETROL, panther black met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, one local owner from new, very low mileage

59 PLATE SEAT ALTEA 19 TDCI S EMOCION MPV 5 SPD DIESEL, silver met/grey, e/w&m, low mileage, service history, one owner from new

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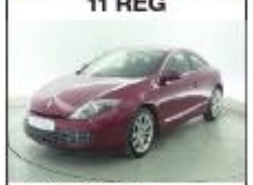
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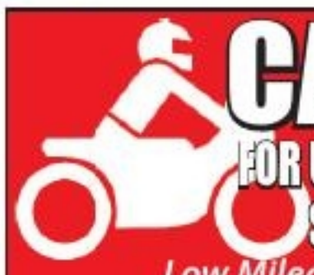

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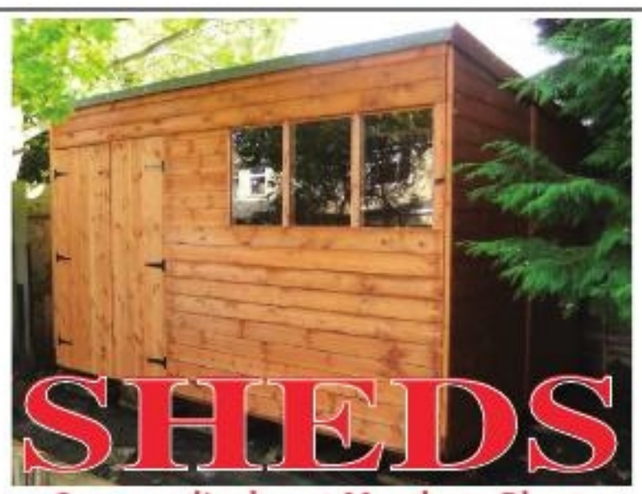

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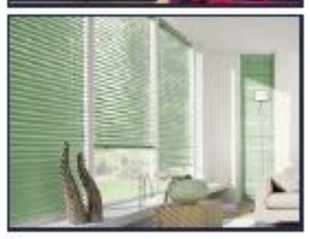

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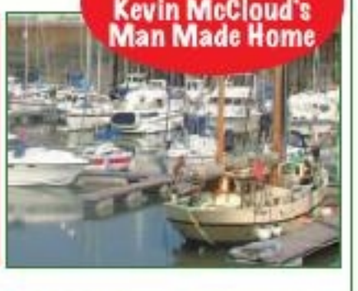

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Newport rally to end U's unbeaten away record

OXFORD United's long-standing unbeaten away league record was finally brought to an end on Tuesday night with a 3-2 defeat at Newport County.

As the only professional team not to be beaten on their travels this season, United's away record, which stood at 14 games, had started to look fragile in recent weeks.

Draws at Exeter, Bury and Bristol Rovers were subtle hints that it was more when not if the run would come to an end.

And on Tuesday night, United were outplayed by Newport, who have only lost twice at home all season.

"The better team won without a shadow of a doubt," said caretaker manager Mickey Lewis.

"But listen it's one defeat in nine and I think sometimes you have to be calm and look at the bigger picture.

"You want the away record to keep going but we did say before the game that this might be our toughest test and it proved to be."

James Constable scored his 105th goal for the club to put United ahead against the run of play on 14 minutes.

However, Newport equalised on the stroke of half-time in rather fortuitous circumstances as Lee Minshull's shot deflected off Rene Howe and past the stranded Ryan Clarke.

Ryan Burge put County ahead in the second half and a mix-up between Clarke and Johnny Mullins provided Chris Zebroski with an easy tap-in.

United pushed forward and grabbed a way back in to the match through Alfie Potter but it proved to be just a consolation.

Lewis added: "We're disappointed with the performance.

"Perhaps it was one of those nights, summed up by the third goal.

"If you don't concede the third goal, and again I stress we didn't deserve anything from the game, we might nick a draw but that's the way it goes.

"We've just got to dust ourselves down and move on quickly."

United are still third in the Sky Bet League Two table and will look to bounce back when they travel to Morecambe this Saturday.

Lewis will hope Danny Rose can recover from illness after the midfielder was forced off at half-time on Tuesday while Dave Kitson (hamstring) is a doubt.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *Mickey Lewis (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

Tricky first day of testing for Williams

WILLIAMS F1 endured a difficult first day to the second pre-season test in Bahrain yesterday, after a problem with the fuel system cost the team several hours of running.

Felipe Massa only managed a total of five laps during the day and did not set a lap time.

The best time of the session of 1:36.880 was achieved by Force India driver Nico Hulkenberg, ahead of Fernando Alonso's Ferrari and Lewis Hamilton's Mercedes.

"It was a difficult day," said Massa. "It was frustrating for me but also for the whole team as we all wanted to get lots of laps on the board today.

"We had a few issues with the car which we are investigating and aim to solve for tomorrow and the following days.

"We know the most important thing is to get mileage on the car, so we hope to do that and get everything we want through until the end of next week."

Chief test and support engineer Rod Nelson added: "We were able to get some laps in at the end of the day, and aim [today] to get through as much of our planned running as possible."

Valtteri Bottas takes over testing duties for today's running, with the test continuing until Saturday.

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Harlequins make it a magnificent seven

OXFORD Harlequins have now won seven matches in succession in the South West 1 East league, following a 52-13 home win against Buckingham last Saturday.

Harlequins have won all but one match so far this season, and are comfortably top of the standings with 80 points from 18 games.

In the same division, Grove won their first game of 2014 as they triumphed 23-14 away to Maidenhead.

Grove are ninth in the league with 42 points, three points behind eighth-placed Devizes.

Harlequins next make the trip to Swindon on Saturday, while Grove host Buckingham.

Elsewhere, Henley Hawks' match away to Blaydon in the National League 1 was postponed due to the bad weather.

National League 2 South side Chinnor also didn't play at the weekend.

Hawks and Chinnor are both 13th in their respective leagues, with the latter not having played at all during February.

Chinnor are scheduled to host Clifton on Saturday, while Hawks are not in action until March 1 when they travel to Old Albanian.

Do you have an Oxford story?

Contact James *jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk*

or on **01235 516931**

We have had a tough run of games, says manager Ford

OXFORD City boss Mike Ford wants his side to keep up the good performances ahead of an important period in their Skrill North campaign.

City were beaten 2-1 at league leaders North Ferriby United last Saturday and are currently third from bottom in the table, four points adrift of safety.

However, City have three games in hand over 19th placed Stalybridge and recent performances have been positive.

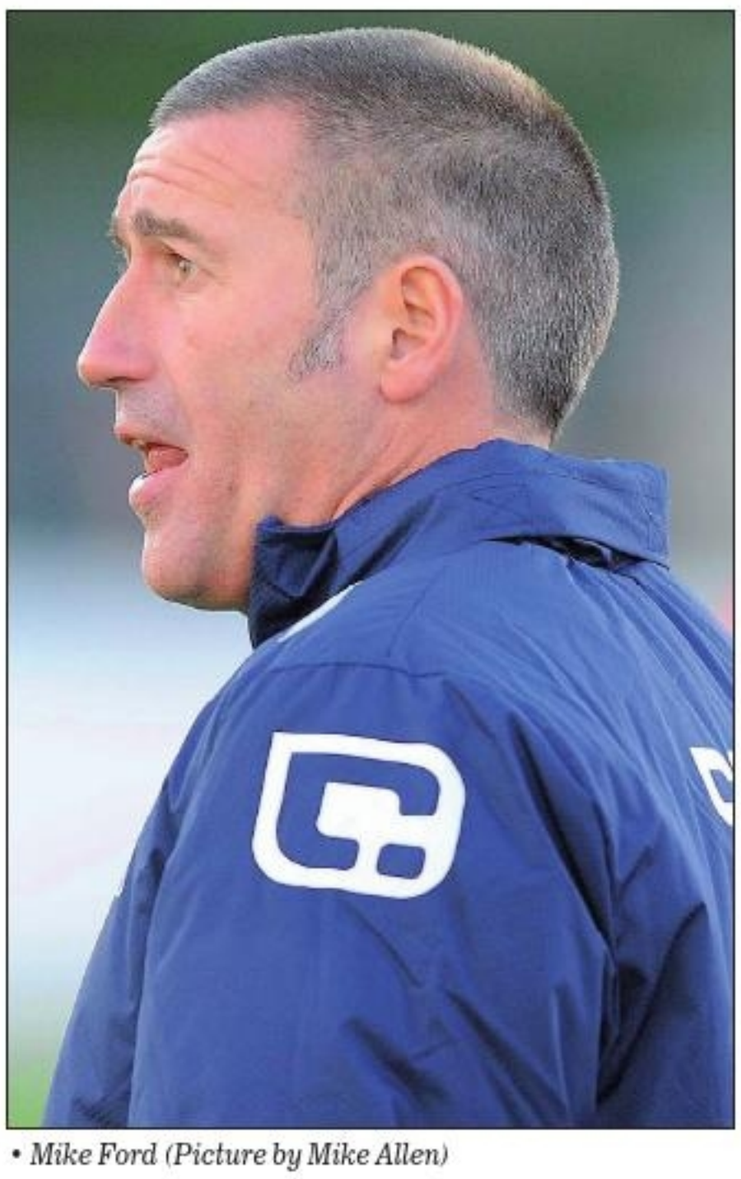
Ford said: "The run of games we have had has been really difficult. I think people need to remember that.

"We've played the top side twice, we've played Barrow who are unbeaten in about three months and we have got to play them again this Saturday.

"We have also played Colwyn Bay, who had won six on the trot, and before that we played Solihull who were top.

"We haven't been disgraced in any of them and we've just got to remember that we produced good performances and have got to keep producing them in these really important games."

After City face Barrow on Saturday, they will play five teams in the bottom half in the space of four weeks.



• *Mike Ford (Picture by Mike Allen)*

Sport Bites

Hawks win

OXFORD Hawks hockey team picked up a much-needed win last Saturday, as they beat Sutton Valence 3-1 at home.

Sutton Valence opened the scoring, but two goals from Charlie Ellison and another from Matt Richardson earned Hawks a deserved victory.

Elsewhere, Oxford University Hockey Club's match with Eastbourne was postponed, after their 3-1 win against Bristol last Wednesday.

University are fifth in the South Premier Division 1 with 28 points, while Hawks are eighth with 21.

Hawks are scheduled to travel to Eastbourne on Saturday, while University make the trip to Spencer.

Staff wanted

BOTH Oxford Cavaliers rugby league teams are looking for new staff ahead of the new Southern Conference and West of England seasons, starting in April and May respectively.

Head coaches Glenn Tyreman and John Whitlow are looking for staff to coach once or twice a week during the summer, with most of the league games taking place between May and August.

Anyone interested in finding out more about coaching should contact Glenn on 07737 804769.

Stars are stunned by Pitbulls

OXFORD City Stars threw away a 3-0 lead against Bristol Pitbulls last weekend, eventually succumbing to a 5-3 loss on home ice.

Stars opened the scoring after just four minutes as Josh Oliver knocked the puck past Bristol netminder John Dibble.

No more goals came in the first period, but shots from Joe Oliver and Zach Dolphin in the second meant the home side were soon three ahead.

Pitbulls' fightback started in the 34th minute as Jordan Smith shot high in the corner to beat Stars keeper Ricky Young, and were soon only one behind with a goal just before the end of the second period.

They were level 35 seconds into the final period through a long distance shot from Alan Armour.

Four minutes from the end, Sam Shone broke the deadlock for the Pitbulls, and Adrian Smith added another in the dying seconds to steal an unlikely victory.

Despite the result, Stars remain top of the National Ice Hockey League South 2 with 25 points from 17 games.

Stars next play Slough Jets in the league cup on Sunday.

Guardian Sport

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More Sport inside: Motorsport: Tricky first day of testing for Williams | Hockey: Hawks win

PABLO STEALS IT FOR DIDCOT

Last-gasp Haysham strike seals victory

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

PABLO Haysham's 90th minute header handed Didcot Town a well-deserved 2-1 win over Evesham United on Tuesday evening.

The three points moved Diddy further away from the relegation zone, with Ian Concannon and Jamie Heapy's side now 14 points clear of 21st-placed Guildford City.

In fact, a win for the Railwaymen on Saturday could lift them up to 14th in Division One South & West.

On Tuesday, John Mills scored his 11th goal of the season to give Diddy the lead on 59 minutes, but they were unable to add a second despite hitting the bar twice.

Evesham thought they had stolen a point with a minute remaining through Richard Mansell but Haysham headed home just moments later.

Concannon said: "If we had scored three or four goals that wouldn't have flattered us at all because that would have really been a true outcome of the game.

"We fully deserved our victory.

"We were very disappointed that we conceded a goal right at the death but it was a great response from the lads."

Concannon added: "It was tricky conditions.

"There was quite a large area that looked like Bournemouth beach, but the players worked hard, we were hard to break down and we created chances.

"On another day someone is going to take a stuffing from us because we are hitting the bar and having shots cleared off the line."

Didcot welcome Taunton Town to the Loop Meadow Stadium on Saturday and Concannon is looking up, rather than down, the table.

"If we get three points on Saturday we are catching teams in the middle of the table," he said.

"The incentive now is to build on this, can we go and get three points on Saturday and can we move up to a more comfortable position and to where our performances suggest we should be."

Didcot head in to Saturday's game with a relatively clean bill of health with only Lance Williams (ankle) on the sidelines.

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• *Pablo Haysham (right) scored in injury-time to give the Railwaymen the win over Evesham (Picture by Roger Neal)*

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